

WE CLAIM:

Sub AI 1. A communication system for advising an intended called party recipient of the availability of the calling party sender for return messages, said system comprising:

a data terminal associated with each of said calling and called parties,

5 a message routing module for interconnecting said calling and called parties; and

a presence processor connected to said data terminal of said calling and called parties and obtaining from a calling party information as to the status of a calling party,

said message routing module communicating with said presence processor in response to said calling party not completing a call to said called party and said presence processor in

10 response thereto forwarding to the data terminal of said called party status information with respect to said calling party.

2. The communication system in accordance with claim 1, wherein said presence processor includes circuitry for communicating with said data terminals and said call routing module, a datastore for storing status information, and status processor.

15 3. The communication system in accordance with claim 1 wherein said communication system is a telephone system.

Sub AI 4. The communication system in accordance with claim 3, wherein said call routing module is a call agent.

5. The communication system in accordance with claim 4, wherein communications between said call agent, said presence processor, and said calling and called parties, including said data terminals, are through a packet-based communication network.

20 6. The communication system in accordance with claim 5, further including a residential gateway between each of said calling and called parties and said packet-based

communication network.

The communication system in accordance with claim 3, wherein said call routing module is a telephone switch and said presence processor is a service control point.

8. The communication system in accordance with claim 6, further including a packet based network connecting said service control point to said data terminals of said calling and called parties.

9. The communication system in accordance with claim 1, wherein said data terminal includes a scheduling calendar, said presence processor obtaining status information for said scheduling calendar.

10. The communication system in accordance with claim 1, wherein said status information indicates the calling party's availability for return communication from the called party.

11. The communication system in accordance with claim 1, wherein said presence processor is operative to dynamically update said status information.